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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,984	01/18/2006	Nobuhiko Oohara	0092/019001	7136

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SMITH PATENT OFFICE
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EXAMINER

NWAONICHA, CHUKWUMA O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1621

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/30/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Current Status

1. Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 4 are indefinite because of the phrase "cyclic alkyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms". It is not possible for a cyclic alkyl group to have two carbon atoms. Correction is required.

Claims 2 and 3 are indefinite because of the variable R is not defined in the claims. Correction is required.

Claim 3 is indefinite because of the phrase "producing the compound according to claim 2". Claim 2 is not a process claim. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

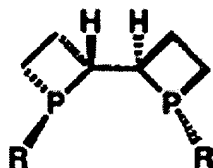
The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al., {WO 2003042135 same as US 7,153,809}.

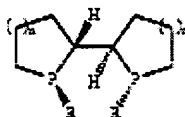
Applicants claim a chiral ligand of the general formula 1 and its transition metal complex; wherein all the variables are as defined in the claims.



formula 1

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (M.P.E.P. §2141.01)

Zhang et al. teach chiral ligands of the general formula 2 and metal complexes based on such chiral ligands; wherein all the variables are as defined in the claims. The metal complexes are useful as catalysts in asymmetric reactions. See columns 4, 7-12, 25-29 35 and 51-53.



formula 2

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (M.P.E.P. §2141.02)

Zhang et al. chiral ligands and metal complexes differs from the instantly claimed chiral ligands and metal complexes in that the instantly claimed chiral ligands and metal complexes (formula 1) is a subgenus of Zhang et al. chiral ligands and metal complexes of the general formula 2. Specifically, applicants claim chiral ligands and metal complexes wherein n is 0, and all other variables are as defined in the prior art compound of Zhang et al.

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (M.P.E.P. §2142-2143)

The instantly claimed chiral ligands and metal complexes would have been suggested to one of ordinary skill because one of ordinary skill wishing to obtain chiral ligands and metal complexes for asymmetric reactions is taught to select the chiral ligands and metal complexes from the genus of Zhang et al.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation of success in practicing the instant invention by varying the substituents of the genus of Zhang et al. to arrive at the instantly claimed chiral ligands and metal complexes. Said person would have been motivated to practice the teaching of the reference cited because it demonstrates that chiral ligands and metal complexes are useful in asymmetric reactions. The instantly claimed invention would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imamoto et al., {Optically Active 1,1'-Di-tert-butyl-2,2'.diphosphetanyl and Its Application in Rhodium-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydrogenations, Synthesis, 9, 2004, 1353-1358}.

Imamoto et al. disclose applicants claimed phosphetane compound. See pages 1353 and 1354.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated Zhang et al., {WO 2003042135 same as US 7,153,809}.

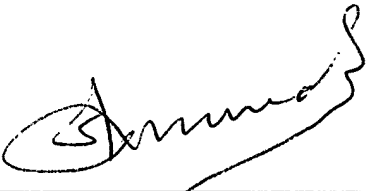
Zhang et al. disclose applicants claimed phosphetane compound. See columns 4, 7-12, 25-29 35 and 51-53.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chukwuma O. Nwaonicha whose telephone number is 571-272-2908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on 571-272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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